

Summary of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Response to Citizen Nominations

The citizen nomination process helps DEQ find areas to collect water quality samples. The process also helps DEQ to respond to local concerns about water quality. DEQ opens the nomination process from October 1 to December 31 of each year. After receiving the nominations, DEQ staff then reviews each request. If the nomination meets certain criteria, DEQ will agree to sample at or near the nominated site.

The table below shows the number of nominations submitted to DEQ for the past five years. Along with this number, the table shows the number and rate of nominations that received follow-up monitoring by DEQ. For the purpose of the table, the definition of a waterbody is as body of water such as a stream, lake, or river. The 2006 citizen nomination cycle set a new record by receiving 48 nominations. This is more than double the average number of nominations received by DEQ every year.

Monitoring Year	Number Of Waterbodies Nominated	Nominations That Received Follow-up Monitoring By DEQ	Ratio Of Follow-up Monitoring By DEQ
2002	25	11	44.00%
2003	27	16	59.26%
2004	18	16	88.89%
2005	15	10	66.66%
2006	3	3	100.00%
2007	48	31	64.58%

Below is a summary that shows the number and type of nomination requests received for the 2007 monitoring year. The table also shows the total number of follow-up stations that DEQ will establish. The higher number of stations to nominations is due to requests for DEQ monitor at multiple sites.

Station Type	Total Number of Nominations	Nominations Receiving DEQ Follow-up Monitoring	Number of DEQ Follow-up Stations
Chemical (water chemistry, E. coli)	15	10	12
Biological (benthic macroinvertebrates)	30	18	18
Fish Tissue	3	3	8

Motivation for the 2007 Monitoring Year Nominations

Land development was the main reason for 10 of the 15 chemical nominations. Local sewage treatment plant expansions and farming practices were some other reasons for the rest of the chemical nominations. About half of the chemical nominations came with data collected by local citizen volunteer groups. The citizen data helped DEQ in selecting monitoring sites.

Land development was the basis for all of the 30 biological nominations. Most of the biological nominations came with benthic macroinvertebrate data collected by local citizen volunteer groups. This data was extremely helpful for DEQ in selecting monitoring sites.

All three of the fish tissue nominations were requests for DEQ to revisit or expand monitoring coverage. Citizens living on Lake Montclair in Prince William County requested a second round of samples to confirm results collected by DEQ in 2003. The Lake Anna Civic Association requested DEQ to continue monitoring for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) compounds in Lake Anna in Louisa County. The final fish tissue nomination came from the Eastern Shore Virginia National Wildlife Refuge in Northampton County. DEQ monitor for compounds that could harm wildlife that live in and visit the refuge.